

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Please listen to the citizenry who call on you to work in the public, versus the private, interest. The collective citizenry, after all, are the keepers of the airwaves. You've been appointed to be their advocates in furthering the public and collective good. All politics aside, please do your job and do it with honesty, integrity, and character. I don't want to think that this administration is so devoid of those qualities that our voices cannot be heard.